

Measurement of a UFO's passage

On August 8th of 1954, the incredible happened. The Shirleys Bay complex registered a definite disturbance, with all of the instrumentation seeming to indicate scientific, documented and measurable evidence that a UFO had passed over the facility. Even more incredibly, the Department of Transport announced two days later that it was dropping Project Magnet. This seemingly irrational decision to discontinue a project just as it had begun to indicate spectacular signs of success was but a forerunner of things to come, as the governmental veil of secrecy began to descend.

The Governmental Files

These facts serve as the background to Arthur Bray's attempts to unearth Canada's UFO files. When Bray asked to see DOT's original Project Magnet files, he was shunted over to the **Department of Communications (DOC)**, on the basis that the files had been transferred to that department when it was formed in 1969 and took over certain responsibilities from DOT.

The DOC files consist of four unclassified volumes, all bearing the file number 5010-4. As of 1979, they were available from the Records Unit, Publications and Record Management Division, Department of Communications, Room 906, Journal Tower North, Ottawa.

Sighting Reports: "Secret"

The files are identified: "Air Services General-Space Research and Satellites-General: Unidentified Flying Objects (including Outer Space Travel)". When the files were made available to Bray, volume 3 could not be located after thorough searching. In volume 1, Bray found references to two additional files, which were classified "Secret". These were identified as "Sighting Reports"—File

22-2-29, and "Project Magnet (the physics of the subject)" File 22-12-33.

Even though the other documentation Bray looked at referred clearly to the two secret files, DOC personnel denied any knowledge of them. However, two months later, DOC informed him that they did indeed have file 22-12-33, that it was now classified only as "confidential", and that it was now listed under file number 6650-4. Further checks with Transport Canada to establish the whereabouts of the file still missing (22-2-29), merely resulted in a bureaucratic runaround for Bray. They maintained that both files had been transferred to DOC, but the latter agency claimed the missing file had never come to them.

But that was not to be the end of it. Bray continued to press for access to the main Project Magnet file 22-12-33 which had been now declassified from "secret" to "confidential", only to now be told by DOC that they held no such file. Clearly, information was being deliberately withheld, and in a rather clumsy manner.

Bray tried once more for access in 1979, and was dealt a couple of surprises. The missing volume 3 referred to earlier had turned up, and he was also handed the two files DOC had previously denied existed! They were now merged into the main body of files as volume 5, and material bearing file numbers of the two secret files and the confidential file were merged together. Had DOC "sanitized" some of the secret material and created a new file? We can only guess. In any event, the government had been less than candid in the whole affair, and the secrecy and contradictions certainly could give the impression that the bureaucracy felt it had something to hide.

NRC's current files

There is yet another Canadian set of files on UFO's. This is the material held by the NRC, which is presently the government body responsible for current sighting reports. These files also contain material held prior to 1968 by the **Department of National Defence (DND)**. They are known as the "Non-Meteoritic Sighting Files", consisting of about 1900 NRC reports and 216 reports from DND. (numbered from 001 to 269). The files are ostensibly open to public view at Room 2026 of the NRC's 100 Sussex Drive facility in Ottawa. An appointment must first be made, by phoning (613) 996-9345.

It is interesting to note that the material held by NRC from DND does not date prior to 1965. When Bray tried to find out where sighting files previous to 1965 were kept, he encountered a now-familiar pattern. DND correspondence on the subject suggests that these files were destroyed by **Air Defence Command (ADC)**, the defense body that was responsible for the material prior to 1965. DND Records Management Office, however, also informed Bray that the files were transferred to NRC along with their other material. NRC of course denies that any pre-1965 files were transferred.